

CAPSULE SUMMARY  
4960 Crain Highway (CH: 556)  
Charles County, Maryland

Built around 1900, this vernacular farmhouse illustrates architectural trends in Charles County at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Though the present shape of the house is irregular, it is actually an I-house that has received numerous additions. The large fields and numerous agricultural buildings behind the house demonstrate the continued importance of agriculture to the southern Maryland economy during the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The property was historically a portion of the 498 acres known as Two Partners, owned in the 1850s by Charles and William Stewart. Sold for \$200, the land on which the dwelling was erected was purchased by Bernard M. Mudd in 1891. The farm was subdivided and sold by the Mudd family in 1927 to the Jenkins, who still retain ownership.

The I-house is two-stories in height and three bays in width. Rectangular in plan, the house is set on a poured concrete foundation and the wood frame walls are clad in vinyl German siding. A one-story porch wraps around the north and east sides of the house. Two interior brick chimneys rise from the asphalt shingle, side gable roof. Subsequent additions have enlarged the dwelling to the south.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH:556

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1. Name of Property

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historic name \_\_\_\_\_  
common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

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street & number 4960 Crain Highway not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town White Plains vicinity \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland code MD  
county Charles County code 17 zip code 20695

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_  
No ☒

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4960 Crain Highway  
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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Solid: Parged Concrete  
Roof Side Gable: Asphalt Shingle  
Walls Frame: Vinyl German Siding  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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4960 Crain Highway  
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=====  
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Agriculture  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1900-1950  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates c. 1900  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carley, Rachel. *The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 119.218 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The property at 4960 Crain Highway is designated as Parcel 269, Grid 16 as indicated on Map 23.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The building at 4960 Crain Highway has historically been associated with Parcel 269 since its construction circa 1900.

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title R. Weidlich and C. Novelli, Architectural Historians  
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date July 1, 1999  
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283  
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

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12. Property Owner

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name J. Wallace and Eunice M. Jenkins  
street & number 4960 Crain Highway telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town 4960 Crain Highway state MD zip code 20695-2850

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 556

Section 7 Page 1

4960 Crain Highway  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

=====

Constructed at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the I-house at 4960 Crain Highway is two-stories in height and three bays in width. Rectangular in plan, the house is set on a parged concrete foundation and the wood frame walls are clad in vinyl German siding. A one-story porch wraps around the north and east sides of the house. Two interior brick chimneys rise from the asphalt shingle, side gable roof. Subsequent additions have enlarged the dwelling to the south. Wheat fields surround the farm and large trees shade the house.

**EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:**

The north elevation of the house is three bays in width. Nine replacement 6/6 windows and a side passage, single leaf wood paneled door with lights pierce the façade. The wrap-around porch is three bays wide at the front and features square, wood posts atop brick footers. A two-story rear addition is visible from the front of the I-house.

There are no openings in the gable end of the original house. The wrap-around porch extends two bays across this west elevation. The two-story rear addition is set on a brick foundation and features vinyl German siding. At each story, there is a replacement 6/6 aluminum window. The west elevation of the enclosed rear porch contains two 1/1 aluminum windows.

The first story of the rear or south elevation is mostly obscured by additions. The one-story shed roof enclosed porch has a single leaf metal door flanked by 1/1 aluminum windows. At the center of this elevation, there is a two-story projecting gable bay with a 6/6 aluminum window and a single leaf wood paneled door at the first story. The rear elevation of the house and another one-story shed roof addition each contain a 6/6 aluminum window. Two replacement 6/6 aluminum windows pierce the second story of the house.

**SUPPORTING BUILDINGS:**

In the midst of the wheat fields, there are four barns dating from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Three of the barns feature vertical board wood cladding and standing seam metal, gable roofs. Of the three barns, one is one-story in height and two are two

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stories in height. The fourth barn is two stories in height and three bays in width. It is clad in wood German siding and has a standing seam metal, gambrel roof.

Closer to the house, there are three outbuildings, two of which date to the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is a one-story, one-bay smokehouse with vertical board wood cladding, a single leaf wood door, and a front gable asphalt shingle roof. The one-story, three-bay shed is clad in vertical board wood siding and covered by a front gable corrugated metal roof. Two double leaf door openings and a single leaf door pierce the façade of the shed. The third outbuilding near the house is a 1960s, one-story, three-bay shed. It has vertical board wood siding and double leaf cross-braced doors. It is covered by an asymmetrical side gable roof with asphalt shingles.



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Section 8 Page 1

4960 Crain Highway  
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Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

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Built around 1900, this vernacular farmhouse illustrates architectural trends in Charles County at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Though the present shape of the house is irregular, it is actually an I-house that has received numerous additions. The large fields and numerous agricultural buildings behind the house demonstrate the continued importance of agriculture to the southern Maryland economy during the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The property was historically a portion of the 498 acres known as Two Partners, owned in the 1850s by Charles and William Stewart. Sold for \$200, the land on which the dwelling was erected was purchased by Bernard M. Mudd in 1891. The farm was subdivided and sold by the Mudd family in 1927 to the Jenkins, who still retain ownership.

A common 19th-century vernacular house type in the mid-Atlantic region, the I-house was one room deep, two stories tall, and three or five bays wide, with a central entry. I-houses usually had a porch on the front elevation and a kitchen wing in the rear, due to the narrowness of the main core. On the interior, a central passage separated the two rooms on the first floor, while the second floor contained either two or four bedchambers. During the mid- and late-19<sup>th</sup> century, pre-cut ornamental detailing was commonly added to the traditional I-house.

Following the Civil War and the demise of the plantation system, farm sizes in Charles County slowly decreased while the number of farms increased. Tenant farming and sharecropping were also practiced, but the availability of credit placed a greater proportion of Maryland's farmland under independent ownership than in other former slave states. While tobacco continued to serve as a major cash crop, southern Maryland farmers, especially those nearer the urban markets of Washington and Baltimore, began diversifying and produced more crops, such as grains and potatoes, for consumption in the cities. The opening of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad in 1873 revitalized the practice of agriculture in southern Maryland. Beginning in 1873, the railroad operated a freight train to Baltimore once a week to carry local produce. In the 1880s, land values in southern Maryland rose rapidly in response to increased profits from agriculture. The Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, therefore, was responsible for agricultural prosperity in southern Maryland during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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4960 Crain Highway  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

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National Register Evaluation:

The building at 4960 Crain Highway is not eligible due to the fact that it does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between the building and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Although the building provides an example of vernacular rural architecture, it is neither unusual nor distinguished; it does not represent the work of a master or display high artistic merit (Criterion C). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D). Thus, the property is not National Register-eligible.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Not Recommended X

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Review, OPS: Carbone

Date: 11/3/99

Reviewer, NR Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)  
Modern Period (1930-present)

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

Architecture, Landscape, and  
Community Planning  
Agriculture

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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4960 Crain Highway  
name of property  
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county and state

=====  
**Chain of Title:**

August 31, 1891: Isabella Garner, Alfred and Mary Alice  
Richards, William A. and M. Eugenie Richards,  
Austin S. and Margaret R. Franklin, and Thomas  
D. and Jane E. Perry to Bernard M. Mudd  
Land Records for Charles County  
Liber JST 4 Folio 276

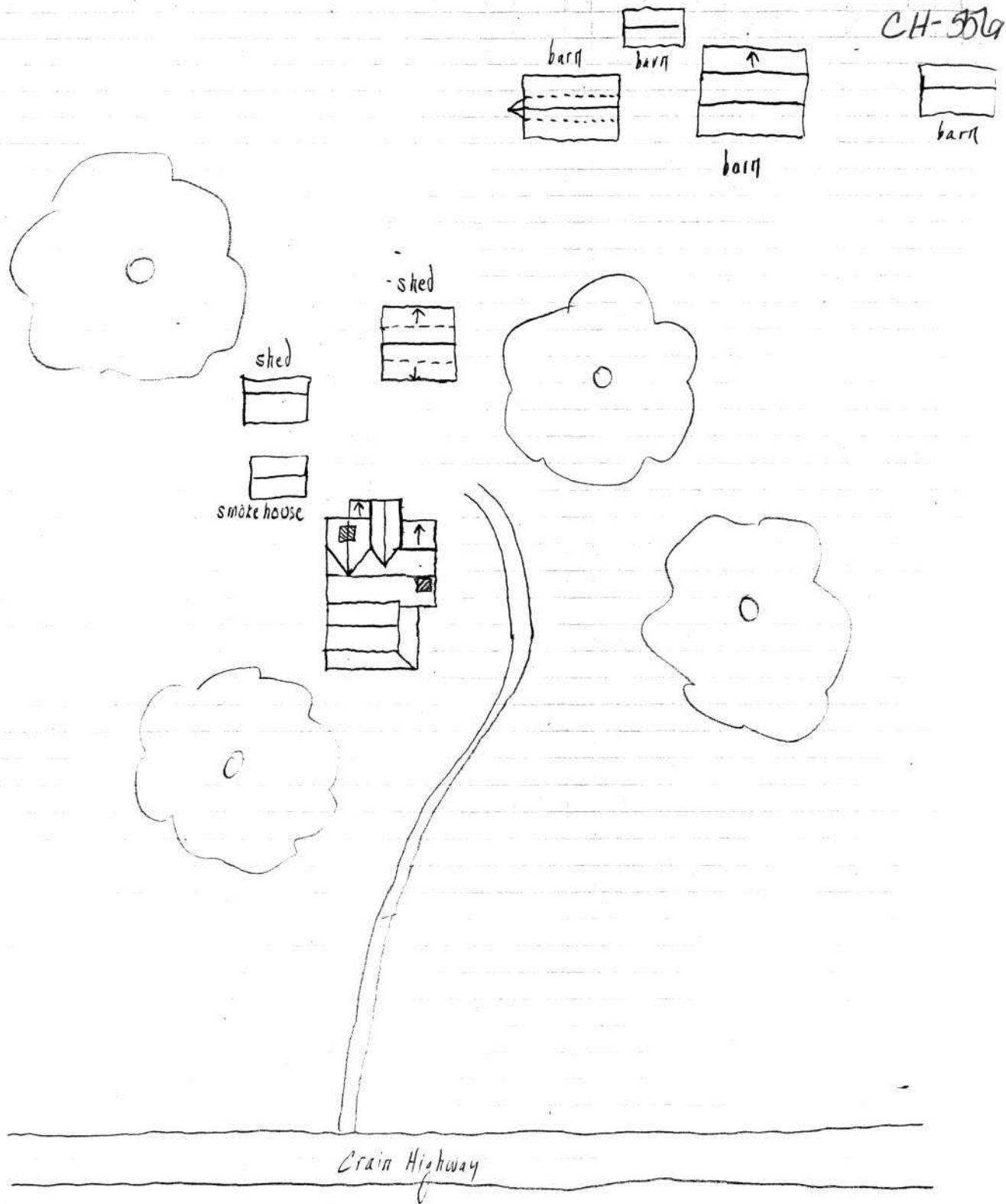
October 31, 1900: Bernard M. Mudd to Annie L. Mudd  
Land Records for Charles County  
Liber BGS 11 Folio 311

February 7, 1911: Bernard M. and Annie L. Mudd to John A. and  
Caroline Mudd  
Land Records for Charles County  
Liber HCC 22 Folio 633

September 26, 1927: John A. and Caroline Mudd to J. Harry and Elsie  
R. Jenkins  
Land Records for Charles County  
Liber WMA 47 Folio 500

December 15, 1970: J. Harry Jenkins to J. Wallace and Eunice M.  
Jenkins  
Land Records for Charles County  
Liber 228 Folio 428

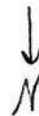
CH-556



4960 Crain Highway CH:556

Charles County  
Maryland

Resource Sketch Map 1999  
Not Drawn to Scale



4050 DERRICO PLACE  
CH-554

4550 CRAIN HIGHWAY  
CH-555

4960 CRAIN HIGHWAY  
CH-556

4274

35'

4272

4271

5561 II SE  
RT TOBACCO

La Plata USGS Quad







CH:556

4960 CRAIN HIGHWAY  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

1 of 6





CH:556

4960 CRAIN HIGHWAY

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION, LOOKING EAST

2 of 6



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4960 CRAIN HIGHWAY  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES  
JUNE 1999  
MD SHA  
SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH

3 of 6



CH:556

4960 CRAIN HIGHWAY

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

EAST ELEVATION, LOOKING WEST

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CH:556

4960 Crain Highway  
Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

Outbuildings, looking East

5 of 6





CH:556

4960 Crain Highway  
Charles County, MD  
Traceries  
June 1999  
MD SHPO  
Barns, looking South  
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